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Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Applicants amend claim 1 for clarification, and amend claims 6, 9, and 12 to independent form. No new matter has been added.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 6, 9, and 12 contain allowable subject matter. Applicants amend claims 6, 9, and 12 to independent form incorporating all features of their base claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow these claims.

Claims 1-3, 8, 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0075119 to Sheha et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0111154 to Eldering et al.; claims 4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheha et al. and Eldering et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,728,545 to Belcea; and claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheha et al. and Eldering et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,230,061 to Welch.

The Examiner relied upon paragraphs [0012]-[0013] and [0026] in Sheha et al. as alleged disclosure of the claimed feature of predicting a mobile information terminal's moving destination and moving direction by inferring location displacements along a time series on the basis of location information "including a pre-registered information category whose information distribution service, distribution, and notification are desired." Page 3, lines 1-15 of the Office Action. The Examiner acknowledged that Sheha et al. do not disclose,

"a system wherein the computer system predicts a mobile information terminal's moving destination and moving direction by inferring the mobile-information terminal's location displacement on the basis of an inference formula provided in advance with said mobile information terminal's moving direction

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and location; and the computer system determines an information-provider terminal predicted to exist at said predicted moving destination of said mobile information terminal on the basis of locations of information-provider terminals pre-recording plans to distribute information as a notification, and determines distributed and reported information corresponding to an information category registered in advance by said mobile information terminal among pieces of information to be provided by said selected information-provider terminal." Page 3, line 16 to page 4, line 4 of the Office Action.

The Examiner relied upon paragraphs [0041] and [0073] of Eldering et al. as alleged disclosure of the above claim feature. The cited portions of Eldering et al. describe monitoring a subscriber's activities to infer a "psycho-demographic" profile. Therefore, such portions of Eldering et al. merely describe monitoring subscriber's activities by a predetermined inference algorithm to construct a subscriber profile, and, therefore, do not disclose inferring a mobile information terminal's location displacement by "an inference formula provided in advance with said mobile information terminal's moving direction and location," as claimed. (Emphasis added)

Furthermore, neither Sheha et al. nor Eldering et al., as cited and relied upon in the rejection, disclose or suggest providing information that is relevant to an expected time of arrival to a mobile information terminal, where the expected time of arrival is predicted on the basis of an inference formula that is provided in advance with the moving direction and location of a mobile information terminal. Therefore, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine Sheha et al. and Eldering et al., such a combination would still have failed to disclose or suggest,

"[a]n information distribution service system comprising a plurality of mobile information terminals, a computer system and a plurality of information-provider terminals wherein said mobile information terminals, said computer system and said information-

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provider terminals are connected to each other by a communication network,

wherein said computer system finds a moving speed of a mobile information terminal from location information accumulated in the past, and predicts the mobile information terminal's moving destination, moving direction, and an expected time of arrival of said mobile information terminal at the moving destination by inferring said mobile-information terminal's location displacements along a time series on the basis of information on the moving speed and locations of said mobile information terminal including a pre-registered information category whose information distribution service, distribution and notification are desired, and on the basis of an inference formula provided in advance with said mobile information terminal's moving direction and location; and

said computer system determines an information-provider terminal predicted to exist at said predicted moving destination of said mobile information terminal on the basis of locations of information-provider terminals pre-recording plans to distribute information as a notification, and determines distributed and reported information corresponding to an information category registered in advance by said mobile information terminal among pieces of information to be provided by said selected information-provider terminal on the basis of the expected time of arrival of said mobile information terminal at the moving destination," as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, together with claims 2-3, 8, and 10-11 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Sheha et al. and Eldering et al., separately and in combination, for at least the above-stated reasons. The Examiner relied upon Belcea and Welch as additional combining references to specifically address the additional features recited in dependent claims 4-5 and 7, respectively. As such, the combination of these additional references would not cure the above-described deficiencies of Sheha et al. and Eldering et al., even assuming, arguendo, that such combinations would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that

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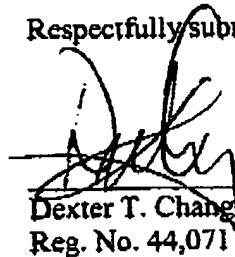
claims 4-5 and 7 are patentable over the cited references for at least the above-stated reasons with respect to claim 1, from which they depend.

The above statements on the disclosure in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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